CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A paging system for sending a message to a subscriber of the system comprising:

a pager adapted to receive a page and to display a message from a caller to a subscriber;

a paging server adapted to receive a request for sending said page, said request including information about the caller; and

a payment server coupled to said paging server and adapted to charge one of said caller and said subscriber in accordance with predetermined rules.

2. The paging system of claim 1 wherein said payment server and said paging server cooperate to deliver said page to said pager only of said payment server determines a method of payment for said page.

3. The paging system of claim 1 further comprising a conference switch responsive to a return call from said subscriber, said conference switch adapted to establish a communication link between said subscriber and said caller.

4. The paging system of claim 3 wherein said paging server is adapted to charge said one of said subscriber and said caller for said page and said return call.

5. The paging system of claim 1 further comprising a caller identifier that identifies an account associated with said caller, wherein said payment server charges said account for said page.

6. A paging system arranged to deliver selectively a page from a caller to a subscriber, said page including information descriptive of said caller and to facilitate a return call from said subscriber, said system comprising:

a paging server that receives a page request by the caller and generates in response a page to a subscriber, said page including information identifying said caller;

a pager having a display and arranged to receive said page and to show on said display a message to the subscriber, said message including data based on said information; and

a switch coupled to said page server and the caller and arranged to respond to a return call request from the subscriber by automatically establishing communication between said subscriber and said caller.

7. The paging system of claim 6 wherein said switch is adapted to establish said communication when said caller remains connected after making said page request.

8. The paging system of claim 6 wherein said caller is associated with a caller telephone number and wherein said switch is responsive to a number from said subscriber which is different from said caller telephone number.

9. The paging system of claim 8 wherein said switch is responsive to a toll free number whereby said subscriber does not pay for said return call.

10. The paging system of claim 9 wherein said pager server is arranged to generate a charge for said page.

11. The paging system of claim 9 wherein said pager server is adapted to charge the caller for said page.

12. The paging system of claim 6 further comprising a payment server coupled to said pager server, said payment server being adapted to generate a charge associated with said page and said return call.

13. The paging system of claim 12 wherein said payment server is adapted to identify an account associated with said caller, said charge being sent to said account.

14. The paging system of claim 13 wherein said caller is associated with telephone set, said payment server being adapted to determine said account from said telephone set.

15. The paging system of claim 6 further comprising a text transcriber station for transcribing
vocal messages from the caller into digital messages.

16. The paging system of claim 15 wherein said paging server is adapted to send said digital messages to said pager.

17. A method of sending a page to a pager of a subscriber comprising:

generating a page request by a caller, said page request including information identifying the caller;

receiving said page request and generating a corresponding page, said page including a number associated with said caller;

transmitting said page to said pager;

receiving a return call request from the subscriber; and

automatically establishing a voice channel between said subscriber and said caller in response to said return call request.

18. The method of claim 17 wherein said caller is associated with a caller telephone number and wherein said return request is generated by the subscriber by using a return call number different then said caller telephone number.

19. The method of claim 17 further comprising putting the caller on hold after said page request is generated and in response to said return call request establishing said voice channel between the caller and subscriber by removing said hold.

20. The method of claim 17 further comprising generating a charge for said page.

21. The method of claim 17 further comprising generating a charge for said page and said return call.

22. The method of claim 21 further comprising obtaining a caller account associated with the caller and applying said charge to said account.

23. The method of claim 21 further comprising providing a set of rules based on an identity of the callers and generating a charge based on said rules.

24. The method of claim 23 further comprising selecting said set of rules by the subscriber.

25. A method of transmitting a page from a caller to a subscriber of a paging system, said paging including alphanumeric text, comprising:

    generating a page request and a vocal message by the caller;

    receiving said page request and said vocal message by a paging server;

    transmitting said vocal message to a transcribing station;

    generating a digital message corresponding to said vocal message at said transcribing station;

    returning said digital message to said paging server;

    transmitting a page in response to said page request to a pager, said page including said digital message; and

    displaying said digital message on said pager.

26. The method of claim 25 wherein said paging server sends a code together with said vocal message to said transcription station and wherein said transcription station returns said digital message with said code to identify the caller associated with said vocal

message.